Oklahoma Chess Monthly

MARCH 2021

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

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OTB Momentum Spreading Sporadically

With vaccinations spreading around the country now hope for the return of regular Over-The-Board tournaments is rising – but pessimism and cancellations are still rampant and probably will remain so until the situation clearly stabilizes.

Missouri has canceled their 2021 scholastic season and will announce how they will select representatives for the national competitions later. One OTB event is scheduled for early this month. (See Tornaments page). Similarly OSCO in Oklahoma has cancelled 2021, from which there is no news since January. They are supposed to announce more soon.

Texas has the most ambitious plans for OTB and scholastic play in 2021. Texas will have an online scholastic championship April 3. For OTB they have April 9-11 the Texas Golden Open in Fort Worth, and the 76th Annual Texas State Championships May 28-31 also in Ft. Worth.

Later this year Texas is also scheduled to hold some national events:

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Editor: Tom Braunlich

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The 2021 U.S. Class Championships, a prestigious event, will be July 23-25 in Houston. The annual Southwest Open is September 1-4 in Irving, TX (Dallas). And the U.S. Armed Forces Open Championship is scheduled for October 8-11 in Grapevine.
http://texasarmedforceschess.com/index.html.

In Kansas, their annual championship Kansas Open is being planned for July 9-11 in Lawrence, but is still tentative.

In Oklahoma, I have no news of OCA's plans for their annual tournament. Presumably they will consider it for late June, the traditional time, but rumors are the organization is in disarray after the departure of Charles M Unruh for military service.

As for my plans in Oklahoma, I still am hoping to start up again this Summer, but June is looking too early. So probably July is the earliest if a date can be found that doesn't conflict with the Kansas Open and U.S. Class events (mentioned above for that month). Otherwise August.

The **Moore Chess Club** is active Over-the-Board. They meet Thursdays 5:30pm at The Station, 700 S. Broadway Ave in Moore, and Sundays 1-4pm at Moore Community Center, 301 S. Howard Ave. **Oklahoma City** also has limited OTB play at the Full Circle Bookstore, Penn Square, on Saturday afternoons.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES!

Chess Tragedies

by Istvan Szabad

"I don't believe in psychology. I believe in good moves" - Bobby Fischer.

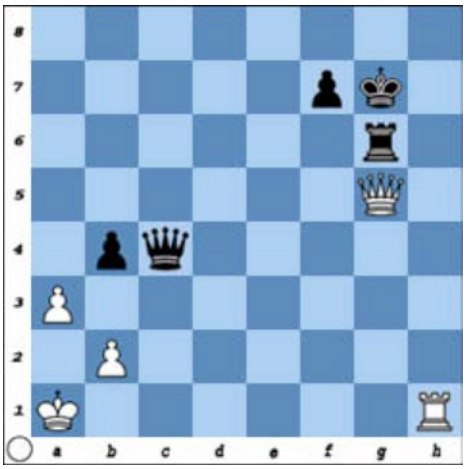
Judit Polgar has argued that chess is 30-40% psychology; but then again Richard Teichmann quipped that chess is 99% tactics — so somebody is wrong.

My favorite puzzles are those in which strong players unwittingly resigned positions that actually could have been drawn (or won!), or, similarly, positions where outstanding players could not see mate in 2-3 moves.

I like to 'collect' such positions and would like to share a few with you.

I have two wonderful books with a lot of "Missed Opportunities": *Blunders and Brilliancies* by Ian Mullen and Moe Mass, and *The Complete Chess Swindler (How to save points from lost positions),* by David Smerdon.

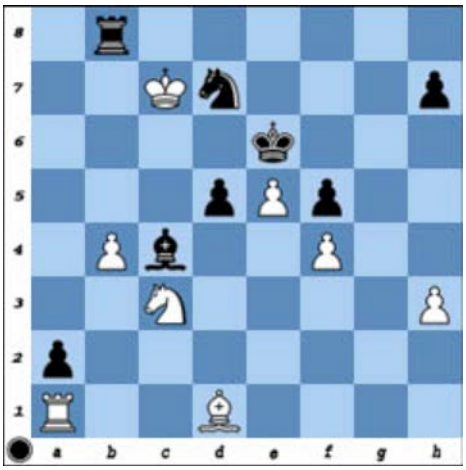
I will show you some examples, in the form of puzzles, with the answers at the end of this article. Take this one:



1) Korneev – Miroshnichenko, 2005

In this position a strong 2600+ GM (playing with black) resigned after white here played 62. Qe5+. Why? He calculated the following lines that showed he was losing either his queen or a rook:
A./ 62. ... f6 63.Qe7+ - Qf7 64. Rh7+
(Or 63. ... Kg8 64. Qh7+)
B./ 62. ... Kg8 63. Qh8# (Rh8#)
C./ 62. ... Kf8 63. Rh8+ Rg8 64. Qd6+ Ke8 65. Rxg8#
D./ 62. ... Rf6 63. Rg1+ winning the Rook.

After this calculation black was convinced it was hopeless, and resigned. But he missed an opportunity! (I don't blame him, it is not easy to find it!) Can you see what he missed? (Try it, then see the answers starting next page.)



2) Burn -Tchigorin, Ostend 1905
In this position Tchigorin (the "father" of Russian chess) chose the obvious pawn grab 1... Rxb4 and eventually lost, yet he could have won easily. How? (See answer 2).

Of course, the reason for these kinds of mistakes usually is due to time pressure. But there are other factors too. When we have a hopeless, "lost-looking" position we feel stressed and impatient. We tend to move impulsively without bothering to search for hidden resources.

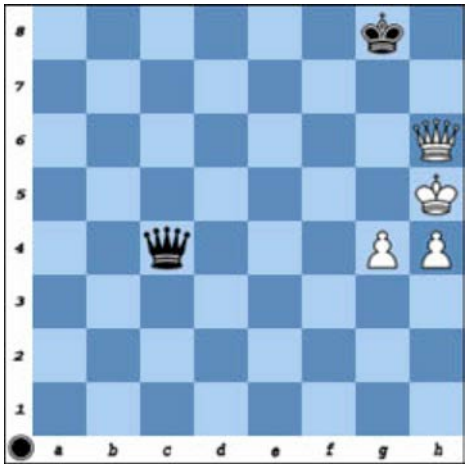
But sometimes a well calculated stalemate position or perpetual check can save us a half point! To set up a (forced) stalemate position can be a beautiful "brilliancy" in itself — as sweet as a queen sac for mate!

To calculate a forced stalemate is not easy at all. We have to "reprogram" our brain to look at 'impossible' moves, like changing a car from "forward" gear to "reverse." Normally we play to protect our pieces; we don't want to lose them. But to force a stalemate we have to think in reverse: intentionally we have to throw our pieces to the "trash." I call it having a "kamikaze" attitude.

This kind of "brain reprograming" isn't easy. In a war no army general wants to kill his own soldiers, it wouldn't make sense.

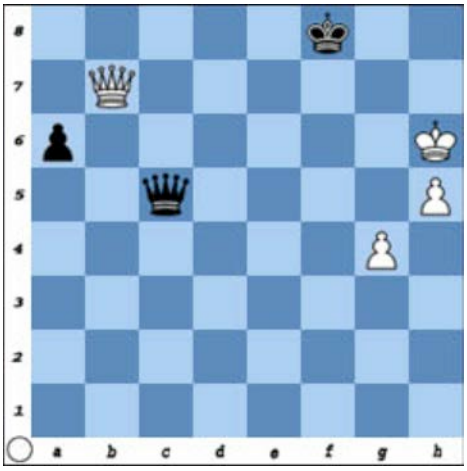
In Spanish the term for stalemate ('ahogado') means "choked" or "choking" and the forced, intentional stalemate ('auto ahogado') means "auto choked."

Let's see some more "kamikaze" action:



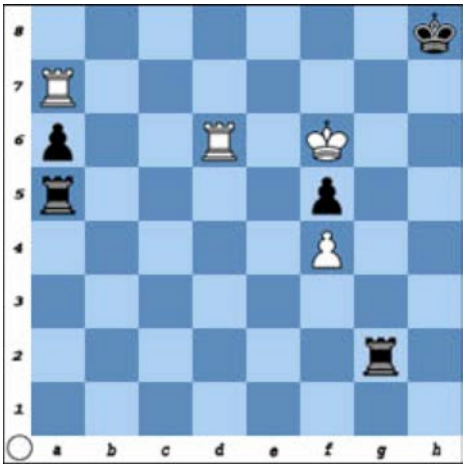
3) Atanasov (2275) - Spiridonov (2390), 1978

Black to move. Remember, even in the endgame stalemate possibilities can happen. What did black do? (See answer 3).



4) Dejan Bozkov - Jonathan Parker 1994

Here in this game between GMs white played the obvious capture 1. Qxa6. It looks safe, doesn't it? But with some imagination black can save the game. How? (See answer 4)



5) Englisch – Gunsberg, 1885.

Another classic example, except this time white misses a win and settles for a draw. Having been defending this pawn down ending, white's mind was in 'draw mode' and here he gave perpetual check. Instead, what could he have done? (See answer 5).

So don't forget! If you are losing a game maybe the "kamikaze action" can help!

When you are losing a game look for forced stalemate or perpetual check before you resign!

ANSWERS

1) Black could have lined himself up for a surprising stalemate: 62. Qe5+ Rf6! 63. Rg1+ Kh7!! Delightful! Now if white takes the rook the f-pawn becomes blocked and can't move, and neither can his king. So after 64. Qxf6 there comes the surprise: 64… Qa2+!! 65. Kxa2 b3+ and it doesn't matter if the K captures the pawn or not — it will be stalemate!!! Beautiful, isn't it!?

Our OCM editor calls this drawing method 'Doing the Safety Dance.'

2) Couldn't Tchigorin see that white's king is surrounded, and after 1. … Ba6! white can do nothing against 2. … Rc8#? But 'backward diagonal moves' are known to be often overlooked, even by GMs. Remember that!

3) In the queen endings, a king in the corner with an enemy queen nearby always has stalemate potential — but obviously it will require giving up your own queen to achieve that. Here black can do that by force:

1. … Qf7+ 2. Qg6+ (this counter-check is the way to end perpetual checks and win the game — but not here) 2. … Kh8! (the 'impossible' move you must consider!) 3. Qxf7 stalemate (or 3. Kg5 Qf4+!).

4) After 1. Qxa6? black sees that if he can lure the white queen to e6, his king will be stalemated. He can force this by playing …Qe6+, and he finds a two-move sequence to force it there. 1. … Qe3+! Now, no matter how white responds the reply will be the same: 2. …Qe6+! 3. Qxe6, stalemate!

5) Black's cornered king is a hint that there may be tactics in the air. It looks as though black's rook on g2 should have no trouble defending the king; but as we know, spotting 'missed opportunities' means learning to see when looks are deceiving. Here white can actually win with 1. Ra8+, Rg8 2. Kf7! (attacking black's rook … but doesn't this leave white's own rook hanging?) 2. … Rxa8 3. Rh6 mate! White's king move was a highly unusual double-threat!

BILL DEVIN IN DIALYSIS

Former Oklahoma state champion Bill Devin, who was a top player here throughout the '70s and terrorized us with his deadly Devin Gambit opening, is currently suffering from kidney failure in his home in Richardson, TX, and is on the transplant donor list. He can benefit from us helping to spread the word.

Devin for a long time has been tangentially involved in chess, teaching students in the Dallas area, having moved from Oklahoma in the 1980s.

He and his wife Wava were planning to retire in Northwest Arkansas when they were hit by a one-two health punch.

Devin explains, "I stopped being involved in the chess world 5-10 years ago when my wife

Bill Devin (standing) teaching chess class.

Wava developed breast cancer. She went through 2 surgeries, some chemo and after five years of pills, she is cancer free (Praise God!)"

"But about the time she became healthy my Kidneys started to fail. I am now doing Kidney Dialysis three times a week five hours per day."

"I'm reminded of the old dark Joke: 'other than that Mrs. Lincoln, how was the play?'"

"… While undergoing treatment, I mentioned to a nurse that I played chess. One thing led to another and she said her third-grade daughter had always wanted to learn to play chess. Funny how things work out. Now I have 9 kids I teach on ZOOM."

Here's How You Can Help

Devin is currently on the transplant list at Dallas Methodist in Downtown Dallas, awaiting a living donor. He simply is 'casting bread upon the waters' and asks that if you know of anyone who would consider organ donation, to direct them to contact:

Aldo Villagomez **at Dallas Methodist Hospital.**

214-947-1814.

The information on kidney donation indicates that it is not as scary a prospect as it might at first appear.

Devin says, "A person's life expectancy is not affected.

A person can live a perfectly normal life with one kidney. The operation is done with a simple micro incision.

The donor is up and about after 24 hours."

People with any interest in further information can contact the above number or other such programs.

Devin says,

"Sometimes when I teach my students, I tell them that chess is an art form, that every game we play is a work of art. The quality varies, but each time we play the board is a canvas just waiting for our brush strokes."

PUZZLE YOURSELF

by Tom Braunlich

How's your chess creativity doing?

Weary of the online chess runaround?
Tired of waiting for OTB chess to return?
There is another way!

My chess club in Tulsa has been holding weekly meetings online since last Summer, and having a lot of fun by solving puzzles together — and recently I challenged them to a new kind of chess experience: composing your own chess puzzles.

We've all experienced the thrill of beautiful chess puzzles that make us go, "WOW!" — especially when we solve it without cheating! There are literally thousands of such puzzles, and creating them is a tradition that goes back at least 500 years, as long ago as modern chess itself. But did you know that not only are such puzzles fun to solve, they can even be more fun to create yourself?!

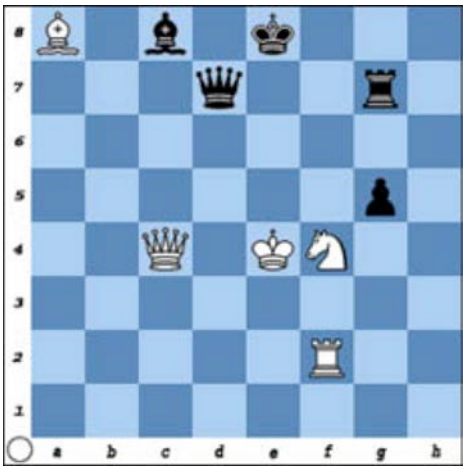
Creating a chess puzzle is one of those zen-like activities that allow you to zone out the virus-ridden world and instead focus on your own ideas, playing around with them much like playing with LEGO blocks. It's relaxing and fun, and can give you a fine sense of satisfaction if you create something you are proud of and want to show to others.

All you need is a chess set and some time to tinker with chess ideas… and an imagination. Don't be deterred by knowing that expert problemists have explored chess tactical ideas thoroughly and you might do something that has been done before. That doesn't matter. It's the journey that counts here.

I'd like to briefly recount my experience creating two puzzles for our club; one which was mediocre, but one which I really liked.

There are two main types of puzzles: "Mate in X" and "Endgame Studies." But there are also "Helpmates," "Construction Puzzles," and much more.

Let's look at my first effort for the club:



White to Move and Win (Tom Braunlich 2020)

This puzzle was only partly successful, but was fun as my first effort. Each puzzle should have a "theme" idea to it, not just random tactics, and here I wanted to play around with pins, counter-pins, and broken pins. This is not a "Mate in X" puzzle so you just need to figure out a way to reach a clear win here. Here's my solution:

1. Bc6 (pin) 1. … Bb7 (counter-pin, saving black's Q) 2. Qe6+ (exploiting the pin) 2. … Re7 (another counter-pin on white's Q) 3. Qxe7+! Kxe7 4. Nd5+ (white breaks the pin on his bishop, with check, allowing his B to take black's Q next turn) 4. …Kd6 5. Bxd7 Bxd5+ 6. Kd4 (and here white ends up a rook ahead, since black can't take on d7 without losing his bishop on d5.

So, what can we say about this composition?

Of course, it is amateurish. The theme has

TOP 25

For MARCH 2020

Active Oklahoma Players

	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2537	0	
2	Howard Zhong	2307	0	
3	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
4	Ryan Amburgy	2199	2	
5	Mark Hulsey	2190	0	
6	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	
7	Veronika Zilajeva	2080	0	
8	Tom Patton	2077	0	
9	Charles D Unruh	2063	0	
10	James Long	2054	0	
11	Michael Nugent	2042	0	
12	Charles M Unruh	2024	0	
13	Matt Dalthorp	2015	0	
14	Chuck Johnson	2010	0	
15	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	
16	Stephen Gehly	2000	0	
17	Logan Zachare	1995	0	
18	David Luscomb	1995	0	
19	Joe Dean Veal	1940	0	
20	Paul Hodgden	1935	0	
21	Wayne Hatcher	1926	0	
22	Harold Brown Jr.	1901	0	▲
23	Maxwell Barnes	1891	-28	▼
24	Adley Bufford	1866	0	
25	Maxwell Xie	1862	0	▲

Player of the Month

LUKE TRAN

The Wichita youngster is on a run lately, up to 2041 now. See "Game of the Month" below.

some fun interplay between all the pinning action, but otherwise is not well developed. It seems rather random, and has a disappointing anti-climactic ending! (If the final position reached had allowed white a spectacular mate that would have been cool, but as it is white just emerges a rook up.)

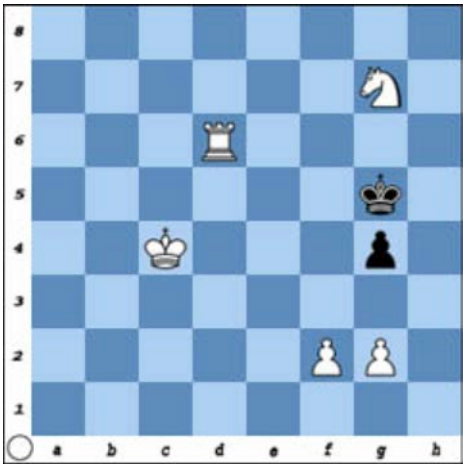
My next effort was better, but before we look at that let's talk about some general guidelines for good compositions:

The Mate in X puzzles should have only one precise solution, without alternate solutions or move orders. Also, the first move should not be a 'check' as that is not considered elegant.

Endgame studies, on the other hand, can start with a check sometimes. These are puzzles that have no set length; you are trying to find a clever method to squeeze a win or a draw.

Every piece in your puzzle should have a function. Some of our puzzle creators at the club wanted to make natural game-like positions for their tactical puzzle, so they would have the main pieces involved in the tactic but then scatter around other pieces elsewhere. Don't do that … it just clutters up the board. Artistically speaking, each unit in the puzzles should be there for a reason.

My next puzzle was much better:

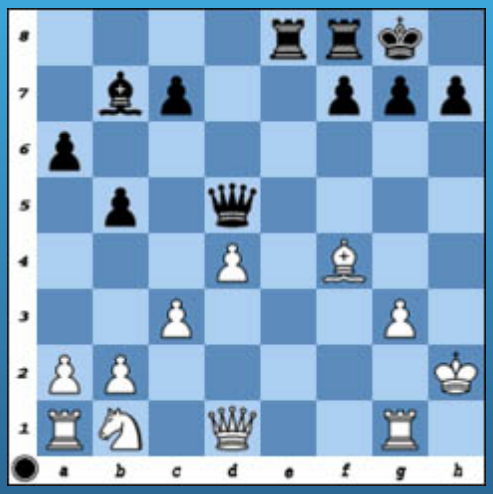


Mate in 3. (Tom Braunlich, 2020)

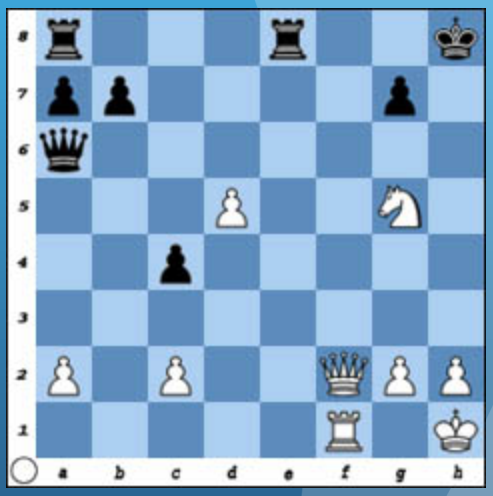
Try solving it before reading the solution and discussion next page.

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



BLACK to move and win. (Medium)



WHITE to move and win. (Difficult)

Did you solve it and can you see the theme? The puzzle creates three variations in which white uses doubled pawns to mate after first putting black in zugzwang.

1. Kd4!!

Black now has three possible moves, two with the King and one with the pawn:

1... Kf4 2. Rg6! g3 (only move) 3. fxg3 mate!

1... Kh4 2. Rg6! g3 (only move) 3. fxg3 mate!

1... g3 2. fxg3, Kg4 (only move) 3. Rg6 mate!

I think you can see how the theme of the puzzle is much better developed here, occurring three times. Two of the solutions are nice mirror images. And the final variation has a very unique-looking mating pattern that I haven't seen before.

I also like that the first move, 1. Kd4, is rather well hidden. It seems to have nothing to do with the solution, but actually it is taking away key squares on the e-file that are critical to variation 1.

On the negative side, it is perhaps a little bit too simple. Perhaps if I worked with this theme some more I could enhance it.

Computer Composition Assistance!

NOTE by the way, that there is a nice advantage to making chess puzzles nowadays that we enjoy over composers of long ago — we can use computers to quickly check our variations and point out alternate solutions.

To do this you need a program like Chessbase and either must use it for composing your puzzle (using the 'setup' function to move around the pieces in your starting positions) or compose on a real board and then input the key positions into the computer. It can save you lots of time by pointing out flaws or alternate wins — although beware. Sometimes the computer's first line will not be the absolute shortest line, which if you are trying to do a "Mate in X" puzzle like this one you can be deceived if you rely on the computer too much.

Retrograde Analysis Puzzles

One of our club members here in Tulsa, Roger Earl, likes to create a very different kind of puzzle involving 'retrograde analysis' — this is a

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) A classic example of distraction. The white R guards the mate square on g2 and can't move. The white Q guards the mate square on h5 and can't move off that diagonal. So… think of a way to disturb both of those pieces: 1. … Re1! The rook is immune, and threatens the Q. If 2. Qg4 then the nicest win is 2… Qh1+! 3. Rxh1, Rxh1 mate.

(2) Here a little pawn move dooms black. 1. d6!! It can't be taken because of the knight fork, and in the meantime it cuts black's queen off from defending the kingside. Black is helpless against the threat of Qh4+ next move by white.

The "Chess Fools of Tulsa" are a fun social chess club that currently is meeting on ZOOM
Saturday mornings, 9:00am to Noon
Join us for puzzles, GM spectating, and more

Club play on Zoom is easy!
Get on our weekly email list, in which I send out puzzles we will discuss, plus local chess news and info on how to join us on Zoom.

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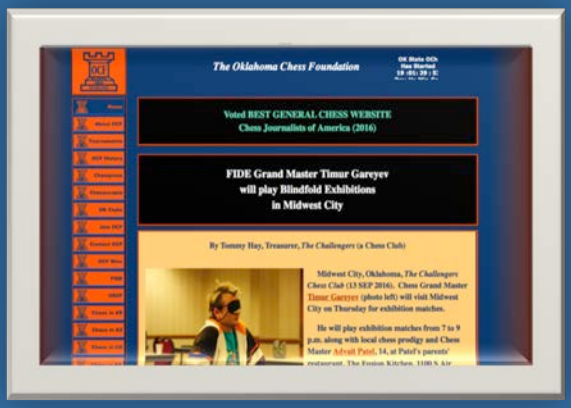
Inquiries:
tom.braunlich@cox.net

Visit
www.ocfchess.org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FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

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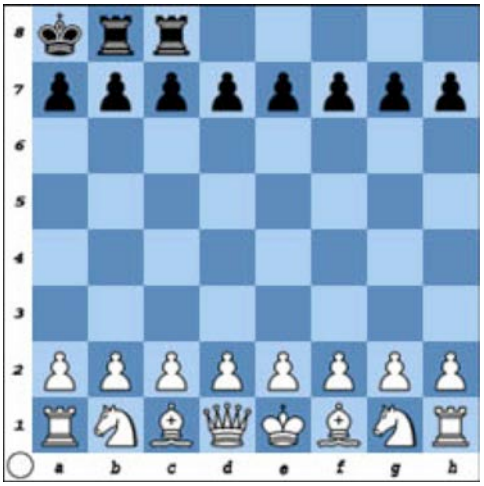
… and more

kind of puzzle that is sort of the opposite of normal puzzles. Instead of trying to figure out the best moves to play in the current position, instead you try to figure out what must have happened earlier in the game in order to reach the current position.

In other words, it's deductive reasoning, and like Sherlock Holmes you try to figure out "how we got here" (using legal moves). In our club, we often play around with puzzles of this type, and we are particularly fond of the book, "The Chess Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" by Raymond Smullyan.

Roger created for us a nice example of this type of puzzle:



(Roger Earl, 2020)

Reach this position by legal moves in 18 moves or less.

In other words, starting with the normal starting position and playing legal moves for BOTH white and black, see if you can find a sequence of moves that arrives at this position, and do it in 18 moves or less.

In order to solve puzzles of this type you must deduce certain things about the position, which in turn helps you to understand what the sequence of moves to get here must have entailed. … Just like Sherlock solving a case!

Construction Puzzles

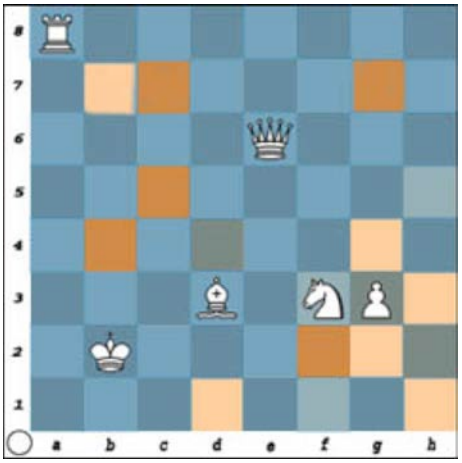
Another type of puzzle I challenged our club with recently is a 'Construction' Puzzle. These puzzles are all about the mathematics and geometry of the chessboard and pieces, and not about typical chess play – but they can still be a lot of fun.

You are probably already familiar with a famous one of these — the Eight Queens Puzzle — in which you are asked to find a way to arrange 8 chess queens on the board such that none of them attack each other.

Recently I created another one of these of my own devising:

Construction Puzzle: Take one of each chess piece (K,Q,B,N,R,P) and place them on the board however you like so that they either occupy or attack the most squares possible.

For example,



here is a construction that covers 53 squares, leaving 11 uncovered. The covered squares are shown shaded in blue. I'm sure you can come up with one that can do better than that.

I came up with an arrangement of pieces that covers 57 squares, leaving only 7 uncovered. I challenge you to beat that, and if you do I'll be quite impressed because our club's math expert, Ian Riley, who is a grad student at TU and teaches math there, presented the club with a thorough analysis which seems to show that 7 is the best possible, but was unable to prove that. So if you can beat it, you will be famous!

So, try creating your own chess compositions. Show your creations to your friends online or down at the club. It's a great way to release your chess creativity!

ARONIAN COMING TO USA

GM Levon Aronian, from Armenia, ranked #5 in the world, is coming to live in St. Louis and will switch federations to the USA, USChess announced on Friday, Feb 26. Here is the full press release.

https://new.uschess.org/news/super-gm-levon-aronian-move-st-louis-represent-usa

This is doubly good news for us, because Aronian is one of the most popular top players. The news is a bit of a surprise, because Aronian is very well known and loved in his native Armenia, a major celebrity there (the prime minister of the country attended his wedding). Three times he led Armenia to gold medals at the Chess Olympiads.

However, recent tragic events may have affected him. His wife died in a car accident in April 2020. It's possible he was looking for a change. His statement also cited the ongoing war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh — players from both countries are known to have had difficulties in international chess events as a result.

Tulsa chess player Roger Earl remarks, "I give myself full credit! The last time I was in St. Louis for the Sinquefield Cup two years ago, Aronian and I had a very good conversation at the "Whole Foods," which is around the corner from the chess center. He seemed very happy, and at ease there. I'm sure he gets tired of being hounded all the time in his home country. I told him he should consider moving to St. Louis, and even becoming a U.S. citizen. He made a wise decision!"

HOMEGROWN CHESS VIDEOS

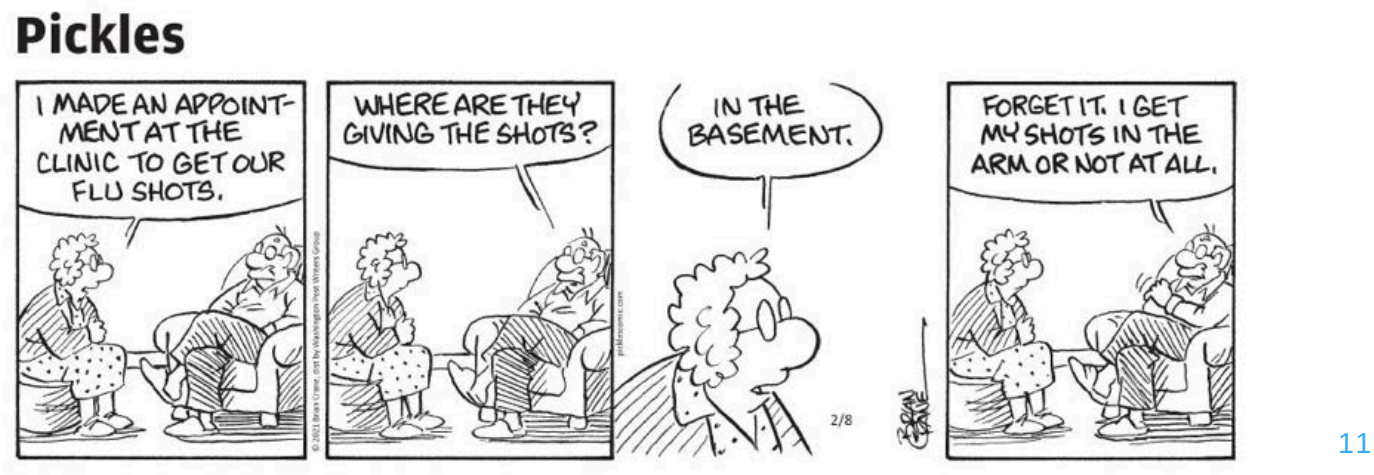
Here is a link to a nice video by Kansas City expert Frank Smith, of his win over IM Michael Brooks:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3heTiyYYQY&t=9s

He has been doing other chess videos on his channel during the virus shutdown, see a selection here:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1sCxLR1sf_j8JoYL4DGrWA

HOMEGROWN STREAMER

Kansas player Jerry J Casteel has a YouTube Channel for chess called Chessjunkie137 that is posting 2 to 3 videos a week. "I explain my thoughts and have fun."
Here is a link:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1sjsM61Ed17uxmhqrUN_jw


Pickles
I MADE AN APPOINTMENT AT THE CLINIC TO GET OUR FLU SHOTS.
WHERE ARE THEY GIVING THE SHOTS?
IN THE BASEMENT.
FORGET IT. I GET MY SHOTS IN THE ARM OR NOT AT ALL.
2/8

Province, Cael (1876)
Tran, Luke (1988) [E15]
2021 New Year Bash (4), 02.01.2021

Wichita's young talent Luke Tran won the 13th "New Year's Bash" on January 2, going 4-0. He thus raised his rating into the expert range and seems to finally have broken out of a plateau he has been on for a while in Class A. I predict more progress for him if we can get OTB chess going here soon. Here is his last-round game vs. Cael Province, another talented Kansas Junior.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.b3 Bb7 [Having induced a weakness the bishop backtracks to the diagonal on which it belongs.]

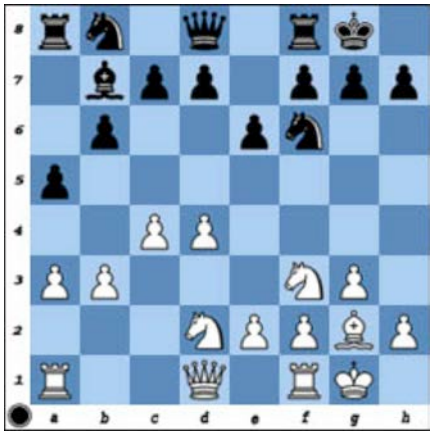
6.Bg2 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 a5 8.a3

[8.0-0 is much more popular here and is supposed to lead to a tiny edge for white. The pawn move looks natural, but... in reality this move tends to make the pawns on a3 and b3 weak later in the middle game, after black gets in the moves ...d5 and ...c5. Black actually has a plus score in this line.]

8...Bxd2+ [Often played, because it saves a development tempo, but I think it is even better to keep the bishop and retreat to e7. Why? Because 1) white's B on d2 is left "in the way" and will have to move again soon, so black does not actually lose a tempo. 2) that 'weak" pawn on a3 is kept under surveillance by the B on e7, requiring a Rook to protect it. Normally this doesn't matter much at first, but after black gets in ...d5 white's queenside pawns will prove to be a bit stuck.]

Here is an example game from one of my favorite players: 8...Be7 9.Bc3 0-0 10.Nbd2 c5 11.0-0 d5 12.Ne5 Nc6 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.Qc2 cxd4 15.Bxd4 Rc8 16.Qb2 b5 17.c5 b4 18.axb4 axb4 19.Rfc1 g6 20.Nf3 Nd7 21.Qd2 f6 22.Qxb4 e5 23.Be3 d4 24.Bh6 Rf7 25.Qa3 Nxc5 26.b4 Ra8 27.Qb2 Rxa1 28.Rxa1 Na4 29.Qb3 Nc3 0-1 Baquero,L (2370)-Browne, W (2530) Philadelphia 1992

9.Nbxd2 0-0 10.0-0



10...Na6!?

Not the normal idea here. Perhaps Luke is deliberately trying to provoke his opponent.

10...d6 is the normal continuation in positions like this, with the idea of playing ...Nbd7 and eventually ...e5 (in the spirit of the Bogo-Indian Defense). If black gets in ...e5 he has equalized in the center and is likely to end up with the "better bishop" if white has to play d4-d5 pawn advance at some point, as often happens. Black also then gets to arrange ...f5 with an attack. If White doesn't play d4-d5 his center comes under pressure. Meanwhile look at white's N on d2. It should be on c3!

Let's look at how Karpov played this position as black: 11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.e4 e5 13.Rfe1 Re8 14.Rad1 exd4 15.Nxd4 Nc5 16.f3 Ne6 17.Nf5 Qd7 18.Nb1 Qc6 19.a4 Qc5+ 20.Ne3 Nd7 21.Kh1 Qb4 22.Nd2 Ndc5 23.Rb1 Rad8 24.h4 Na6 25.Kh2 Qc5 26.Ndf1 Nb4 27.Qd2 Qd4 28.Qxd4 Nxd4 29.Red1 Ne6 30.Nd5 f5 31.exf5 Bxd5 32.cxd5 Nc5 33.Rd2 Re7 34.g4 Rde8 35.Ng3 Re3 36.Ne4 Nxb3 37.Rdd1 Nc5 38.Ng5 Nxa4 39.Ne6 Nc3 40.Re1 Rxe1 41.Rxe1 Nbxd5 0-1 Granda Zuniga, J (2615)-Karpov, A (2725) Madrid 1992

11.e3 c5

[This is the logical follow-up for Luke, but if

white just holds the center and continues development the N on a6 is going to start to look 'dim.']

12.Qe2 cxd4 13.exd4♜ d6 14.h3 [14.Rab1 or 14. Rfe1 look more to-the-point to me.]

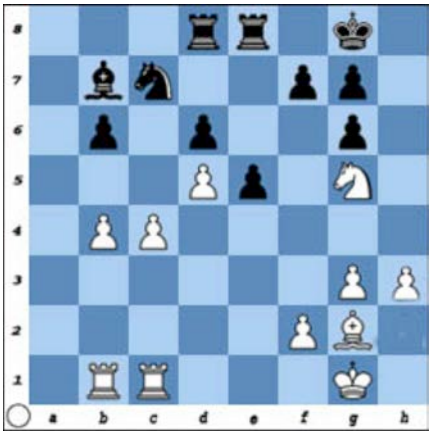
14...Qc7 15.Rfe1 Rfe8 16.Rab1 Rad8 [16...e5 would be logical and would equalize for Luke, but I suspect he did not want to clarify the position, hoping for more. The players now enter a sort of maneuvering stage.]

17.Rec1= [17.b4 axb4 18.axb4 Nb8 19.Ra1 Nbd7 would be about equal. Apparently both players are playing cat and mouse.]

17...e5 18.d5 Qc5!?

19.Ng5! [Cael nicely refutes Luke's little bluff at white's queenside.]

19...Qc7 [19...Qxa3? 20.Nde4! cuts off black's queen retreat while also initiating kingside threats. So Luke has to retreat and he finds himself forced into a slightly bad ending.]
20.Nde4 Qe7 21.Nxf6+ Qxf6 22.Qh5 Qg6 23.Qxg6 hxg6 24.b4 axb4 25.axb4 Nc7



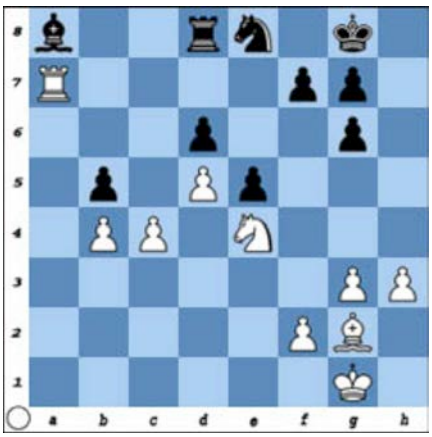
So, the players have reached an ending that is slightly better for white. Although Luke has the 'better bishop' (the B on g2 is not happy), he nevertheless suffers from lack of space and unwieldy pawns. White also threatens to invade down the a-file.

Still, black has a lot of resources, mainly due to white's less-than-ideal pawns on the queenside, which might easily get broken up by a timely ...b5 move, leaving the d5 pawn weak, etc.

26.Ra1 Ra8 27.Ne4 Red8 28.Rxa8 Bxa8 29.Ra1 b5!

Striving for counterplay by undermining.

30.Ra7 Ne8



31.Ng5? [Cael misses a chance here while the black pieces are in a bit of disarray to initiate tactics and get a dangerous passed pawn: 31.cxb5! with advantage: 31...Bxd5 32.b6 Rb8 Cael had probably seen this far but missed the shot: 33.Nc5! Bxg2 34.Nd7! winning. But it's not surprising he missed that in a rapid game.]

31...bxc4 [Luke succeeded in destroying those brittle queenside pawns and now has a passed pawn too for counterplay. The advantage has switched to black.]

32.Kf1 [I guess the key question is what happens after 32.Nxf7 and the answer is 32...Rc8! *(*Not *32...Rb8 33.Kf1 Rxb4 34.Nxe5! dxe5 35.Rxa8 Kf7* and the edge has switched back to white.*)* 33.Ng5 Nc7 and black is

better.]

32...Rc8 33.Ke1 Nc7 34.Kd2? [Cael's idea to bring the king over immediately was good, but this was a careless move.]

[34.Kd1 is better because now if 34...c3 then 35.Ra5 protects d5 while preventing 35....Nb5 (as in the game). However, after 34.Kd1 f5! is strong for black because it takes away e4 from the white knight. The d5-pawn will soon fall and black has good winning chances.]

34...c3+!

35.Kc1
[35.Kxc3? Nb5+!]

35...Nb5 36.Rxf7 Nd4! [Good tactical accuracy from Luke!]

[36...c2 might also win, but I think Cael then was hoping to play Rf3 and its defense along the third rank gives black some headaches. But now it's getting hopeless for white.]

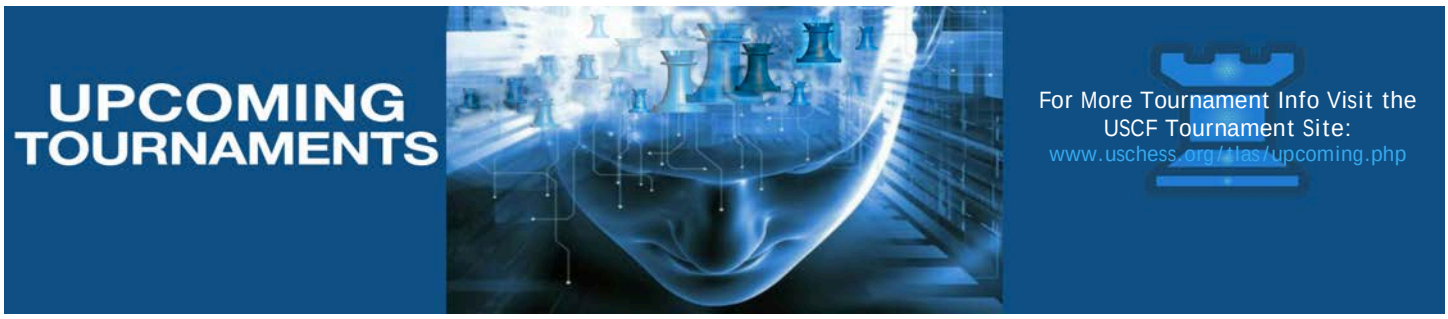
37.Rd7

[37.Bf1 necessary though white still losing 37...c2 38.Rf3 Bxd5 39.Rd3 Nb3+ etc. is winning also for black.]

37...c2 0-1

There's no way to stop ...Nb3+ and queen. A good game by both players, and a nice win for Luke.

Special thanks to Laurence Coker for providing all the games from this event on the KCA website!



MAR 6-7 2021 MISSOURI SPRING CHAMPIONSHIP COLUMBIA MO
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By IM John Donaldson

REVIEW:

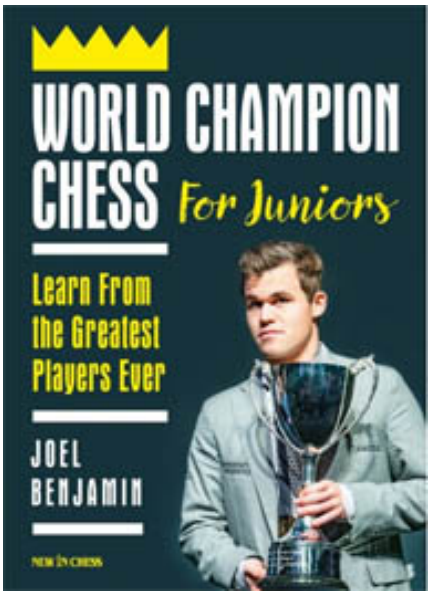
New Books from New in Chess

World Championship Chess for Juniors

The Dutch publisher New in Chess (www.newinchess.com) has been around since the 1980s but shows no signs of slowing down with its latest offerings all of the highest standard.

World Championship Chess for Juniors (256 pages, figurine algebraic, $22.95) by Joel Benjamin aims to fill a knowledge gap prevalent among junior players, many of whom who use computers as their primary tool to master the game. The three-time U.S. Champion, now a prominent teacher, has found many of his young pupils have little to no knowledge of the World Champions, something unthinkable when he was growing up.

Benjamin seeks to rectify this situation by examining all the universally recognized World Champions from Steinitz to Carlsen, plus Paul Morphy. Each of the greats gets about a dozen pages including a short biography and a half dozen representative games with instructive notes.



Benjamin has played or known a number of the more recent World Champions and it's interesting to hear him debate the question without an answer – who is the strongest player of all time? Not only are the big three (Fischer-Kasparov-Carlsen) compared, but also the careers of World Champions who did not make Joel's short list.

Benjamin's hypothetical matchup between Anand and Kramnik makes you realize how tough the job can be. Kramnik's lifetime match record is uneven and includes losses to Kamsky, Gelfand, Shirov and Anand (for the 2008 World Championship). While this is true, he defeated Kasparov in arguably the great upset in World Championship history, perhaps the equivalent of Gardner's victory over Karelin in the 2000 Olympics – the latter is often considered the most dominant Olympic athlete of all time. Kramnik didn't just beat Kasparov he was in control throughout, not losing a single game. Curiously in the run up to this match Shirov defeated Kramnik in similar fashion but was unable to agree to terms and never got his chance to play for the World Championship. To close the circle Kasparov had a huge plus score against Shirov. Chess can indeed be a strange game.

World Championship Chess for Juniors deserves a wide audience. Most readers will find it offers just the right amount of detail and is a fun read to boot. My only small quibble is that the author calls his fellow New Jersey citizen Wilhelm. Certainly, this was Steinitz's name at birth, but for much of his life he went by William and that was certainly the case from the 1880s until his death in 1900. Steinitz, who became a U.S. citizen in 1888, played several World Champion matches, published the *International Chess Magazine* and wrote *The Modern Chess Instructor* as an American.